

July 2022



# CONSULAR NEWS

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Greetings, everyone.

My name is Christopher Smith, and I am the new Immigrant Visa Chief here at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince.

I am sure that many American Citizens living or traveling in Haiti are interested in helping their relatives receive an immigrant visa. The process starts by filing a petition with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the National Visa Center (NVC). After the petition is assessed and approved, it is forwarded to the Embassy in Port-au-Prince for the visa interview. We understand that by the time your family member has their visa appointment, you both have been waiting a long time. Therefore, it is important that you help your family members be prepared for the interview. **It is incredibly important to bring all the documents to the Embassy on the day of the interview.** Please [refer to this page](#) to see a checklist of documents and other materials beneficiaries should bring with them. Beneficiaries who are prepared with all the proper documents are much less likely to experience further processing delays.

This month's issue focuses on how eligible voters stationed or living abroad can register to receive their county or state's ballots while overseas. As election season approaches, please review the following pages to ensure that you know your state's requirements and deadlines to get your ballots in time.

In this issue you will read that Embassy Port-au-Prince welcomed its new Chargé d'Affaires Eric Stromayer who gave his first public remarks during this year's Independence Day celebration. The issue also shares Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statement commemorating the one year anniversary of President Jovenel Moïse's assassination.

Finally, the U.S. Department of State's travel advisory for Haiti remains at its highest level, which is "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to ongoing kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest. However, if you find that you must travel to Haiti, there are resources and information readily accessible for you to access as you finalize your plans. Please review the State Department's [Haiti travel advisory page](#) and sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

Christopher Smith,  
*Immigrant Visa Chief*

## Ask the Consul

This month, we're providing more information on how you can register to vote while abroad.

**Q: Am I eligible to vote in my state's upcoming election? What are the requirements?**

**A:** In general, those who are eligible to vote in their county or state elections must meet the following requirements: they are residents of that state, will be at least 18 years of age on or before the election date, and do not claim the right to vote in any state or district outside of their state of residence. Of course, each state has its own additional requirements so please be sure to check your state's guidelines either with your Department of Elections or at [www.vote.org](http://www.vote.org).

**Q: How do I submit my voter registration information?**

**A:** For those who are eligible voters and will be overseas during their state's elections, you have the option to apply for an absentee ballot via [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). First, go to [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) and complete a Federal Post Card Application or FPCA to request an absentee ballot. You may also send a request to your Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). If you have missed the deadline to submit an FPCA, you can still receive a ballot! You will need to apply for a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot or FWAB which is also located at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). Please be mindful of your state's deadlines to submit these forms as well as any guidance provided by the FVAP website. In general, [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) advises eligible voters residing abroad to send in their forms at least 90 days before the election they wish to vote in but to always check with their respective state's voting office and/or Department of Elections.

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### Useful Links

- [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov)
- [www.vote.gov](http://www.vote.gov)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(S.T.E.P.\) Website](#)
- [State Department Haiti Travel Advisory Page](#)
- [ACSPAP@state.gov](mailto:ACSPAP@state.gov)

**Q: How can I send in my ballot once it is complete? Can I just vote at the Embassy or Consulate?**

**A:** Once you have completed your ballot, please submit it via mail to the designated address for overseas ballots on your county or state's election website or [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). Please note that not all states will accept an electronic copy or fax so please plan to send your ballot in by mail. Embassies and consulates are not designated voting sites so you should not rely on the embassy to serve as a polling place. However, the embassy still serves as resource to provide guidance on how to complete overseas voting applications so please visit our Facebook and Twitter pages for more information. As always, please also be sure to sign up for STEP to receive all of our regular messages.

### July 4th — U.S. Independence Day

This year marks 246 years that the United States of America celebrates its independence. U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince hosted its own celebration on July 6<sup>th</sup> with our new Chargé d’Affaires Eric Stromayer who invited members of Haiti’s government, members of the local diplomatic corps, and other esteemed guests. A transcript of Chargé Stromayer’s remarks can be [found here](#).

The White House released an official statement in honor of the country’s independence day as well. Below is an excerpt from this year’s White House statement. The full text can be [found here](#):

*“...For America is always becoming, always on the move, always a work in progress. That’s the key word, a key idea, a keynote in the life of our nation: progress, forward motion, the creation of possibilities, the fulfillment of promises. That’s the American story. ...*

*“And this day reminds us of what brought us together long ago, what binds us still, and at our best, what we strive for. It’s “We the people.” Not a hollow phrase in America. “We the people” doing all we can to ensure that the idea of America and the cause of freedom and justice and equality does more than survive the divisions of our time, but that it shines like the sun to light up the future of our world.”*



### One Year Anniversary of the Assassination of President Jovenel Moïse

July 7<sup>th</sup> marks the one year anniversary of President Jovenel Moïse’s assassination in Haiti. Secretary of State Antony Blinken shared the following in an [official statement](#) commemorating the anniversary:

*“Today marks one year since the assassination of Haiti’s President, Jovenel Moïse. The United States continues to staunchly support the pursuit of justice and accountability for those who planned, financed, and perpetrated this terrible crime.*

*“We remain concerned about the limited progress of Haiti’s investigation into the assassination. ...*

*“We urge the Haitian authorities to move forward with an independent and thorough investigation into the assassination of President Moïse, consistent with Haitian law and international rule of law standards, to ensure those responsible for this crime are brought to justice. We remain a committed partner to supporting this aim, as shown by the extraditions of individuals alleged to have conspired in the perpetration of this offense through acts committed within U.S. jurisdiction. We hope the joint efforts of the Haitian government and relevant international partners soon shed light on the crime, so that justice may be served, and the Haitian people can confidently say President Moïse’s murder was not met with impunity.”*

# Health Resources & COVID-19

## COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

## Haiti—Level 1: Low Level of COVID-19

Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Haiti. Anyone 2 years or older should properly wear a well-fitting mask in indoor public spaces. [Learn more from the CDC](#).

## General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.

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Protect  
From  
COVID-19.

## Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)



### Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

#### If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov)
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.

**STEP**

Smart Traveler  
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

## Contact Info

### Email

- American Citizen Services: [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov)
- Visas: [support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com](mailto:support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com)

### Phone

+509-2229-8000

### Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

### Address

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince  
Boulevard 15 Octobre  
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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### Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

This newsletter is published by the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please pass this newsletter along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, sign up through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov).